

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title and paragraph on Page 1, lines 1 and 2, with the following:

~~Field of the Invention~~ Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application ~~claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application number 60/033,381, filed December 16, 1996~~ is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/796,256, filed on February 28, 2001 (now abandoned), which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 08/991,677, filed on December 16, 1997 (now Patent No. 6,252,135, issued on June 26, 2001), claiming priority from Provisional Application No. 60/033,381, filed on December 16, 1996.

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to the molecular modification of gymnosperms in order to cause the production of syringyl units during lignin biosynthesis and to production and propagation of gymnosperms containing syringyl lignin.